



**African American Legislative Leadership Committee**

## **Governor's Prayer Breakfast**

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

- **Thank you for the invitation to be with you this morning.**
- **I don't have to tell you that Arizona is struggling through some difficult times.**
- **You all know that.**
- **You know about the budget, the lack of revenue, and the fact that we have streamlined state government and made our system more efficient.**

- And, I think you know that more tough times are still ahead of us.
- So, how do we cope?
- How do we carry on with ever tightening budgets, with ever expanding needs?
- In the book, "*Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*," there is a story of how, after World War II, a group of German students -- young people — volunteered to help rebuild a cathedral in England that had been a casualty of the German bombings.

- **As the work progressed, debate broke out on how best to restore a large statue of Jesus -- with his arms outstretched.**
- **Careful patching repaired all of the damage to the statue -- except for Christ's hands, which had been totally destroyed by bomb fragments.**
- **Should they attempt the delicate task of reshaping those hands?**
- **Finally, the young workers reached a decision -- that still stands today.**
- **The statue of Jesus ... has no hands.**

- **A simple inscription nearby reads:  
“Christ Has No Hands ... BUT OURS.”**
- **Isn't that really our commitment and calling to each other? To be His here on earth? I think it is.**
- **Budget cuts within state government have resulted in reduced or limited funding for services for our most vulnerable -- the elderly, disabled and low-income residents.**
- **That's why by Executive Order, I established “Arizona Serves.”**

- **With the assistance of the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Serves will connect faith-based and non-profit organizations to help meet those needs.**
- **The “Arizona Serves” website, gives Arizonans an opportunity to communicate with each other about what is going on across our communities in specific areas of need.**
- **Resources are offered for:**
  - Foster Care participation**
  - Free or reduced-cost child care**
  - Supervised CPS visits**
  - Elder independence, and grandparents raising grandchildren**
  - And Transportation for the underserved.**

- **Federal, State, and local governments, national service organizations, corporations, churches, synagogues, and voluntary groups, must continue to work together.**
- **That's how we can continue to provide food, shelter, and comfort for the needy.**
- **I know Arizonans will continue their partnership and resolve to invigorate their commitment to reach out to their fellow Arizonans in need.**

- **I want to thank each of you for being a part of that sharing and caring – and for keeping the spiritual message that God has placed in your hearts.**
- **God's love shines through every challenge we face and comforts and guides us. His truth is the ultimate power source, and may it strengthen and preserve you and your families and the great state of Arizona.**
- **May God keep you ALWAYS, and may YOU always keep God.**
- **Thank you.**